

St. Lucie County

December 15, 2003

**A Monthly Update of
Current Events and
Happenings within
St. Lucie County**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Linette Trabulsi, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791, 772.462.2131 Fax, Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commission Meeting Changes

- The December 16, 2003 Board of County Commissioners meeting will be changed to 6:00 p.m.
- The December 23, 2003 Board of County Commissioners meeting has been canceled.
- The January 6 and 20, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meetings will be changed to 6:00 p.m.

Board of County Commission Workshop Scheduled

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop on Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3 to discuss Transportation Issues with The Reserve.

North County Charrette Planned

In an effort to work together with the citizens, property owners and business owners in northern St. Lucie County, the St. Lucie County Planning Department and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will host the North County Charrette on Saturday, February 7, 2004 through Friday, February 13, 2004. The primary public input session of the charrette will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Park Elementary School cafeteria located at 7800 Indrio Road in Fort Pierce. The public is also invited to a presentation of the charrette report on Friday, February 13, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. also at the Lakewood Park Elementary School cafeteria. For more information, call (772) 462-1586.

NY Mets Spring Training Schedule Announced

The New York Mets have announced their 2004 Spring Training Schedule for the St. Lucie County Sports Complex in Port St. Lucie. The first home game at Mets Stadium is Friday, March 5, 2004 at 7:10 p.m. versus the St. Louis Cardinals. The Mets home schedule for 2004 features 18 games including five night games and seven weekend games.

The 2004 Spring Training home games will be played in the newly renovated Mets Stadium located at 525 N.W. Peacock Boulevard in Port St. Lucie. St. Lucie County, in partnership with the New York Mets, will have completed the \$10 million renovation of the stadium in time for opening day. Improvements include a new stadium façade with an elevator, new lighting, a new suite level, upgraded office space, an outfield picnic berm, more fan-friendly seating and more concession stands and restrooms. For more information about the New York Mets Spring Training schedule, call (772) 871-2115 or visit www.stluciemets.com.

Extension Office and Solid Waste Department Announce Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Program

The University of Florida/St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office, in conjunction with the County's Recycling Department, is implementing a new recycling program that focuses on removing used monofilament fishing line from the environment. Discarded fishing line accounts for many tragic wildlife deaths due to entanglement. One solution to the problem is to have recycling containers available to boaters and fishermen to discard their used line. St. Lucie County placed recycling containers at the Black Pearl Boat Ramp, the Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp and other locations throughout the county. These recycling receptacles will be monitored on a regular basis by county staff and volunteers and the cleaned line will be shipped in 40-pound increments to a monofilament line processor for recycling. For more information, contact Ken Gioeli or Leroy Creswell at the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office at (772) 462-1660 or Jacquie Burgess at the County Landfill at (772) 462-5678.

Recreation Department Schedules Holiday Camp for Kids

This camp is scheduled for December 12-22, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31 and January 1-2 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each day. The camp is for children ages 5-12 years old and costs \$40 per week or \$8 per day. Camps will take place at both the Fort Pierce Community Center and the Lincoln Park Community Center. Pre-registration and payment required by start of camp and does not include field trip expenses and lunches. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (772) 462-1528.

There will be four mini-sports camps on Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. including a wrestling camp, basketball camp, soccer camp and baseball camp. The mini-sports camps are held at Fort Pierce Central High School and are for children ages 6 through 14 (except the baseball camp: ages 7-14). Each camp costs \$40 per child and the registration deadline is December 19. For more information on the sports camps, call (772) 462-1521.

Downtown Fort Pierce Library to Host Artist for ArtWalk

During ArtWalk on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, the Downtown Fort Pierce Library will feature artist Georgina Love from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Her artwork can be viewed at www.paintedskye.com/gallery.html.

Equestrian Center at Fairgrounds to be Named for Adams Ranch

The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners announced that Bud Adams, local cattleman, has donated \$350,000 to the County for the naming rights of the Fairgrounds Equestrian Center. The County borrow the money from Harbor Federal Savings Bank and Mr. Adams will pay the loan over 15 years. The name of the center will be the Adams Ranch Equestrian Center. In addition, the Commission entered into a contract with the Ahrens Company for construction of a Design/Build Equestrian Arena with construction beginning on December 3, 2003 and ending on May 11, 2004. The cost of this project is \$1,071,164 and the funding sources include the donation from Mr. Adams, Investment for the Future funds and loan proceeds.

Construction of Dune Crossover at John Brooks Park Set

The Board of County Commissioners approved the contract with Summerlin Seven Seas, Inc. for the construction of a dune crossover at John Brooks Park on South Hutchinson Island. The total project cost is \$26,400 and the funding source is Investment for the Future funds. Construction is set to begin the first of January 2004 and be completed by the end of February 2004.

Park to be Named for Former County Administrator

The Board of County Commissioners approved the resolution naming Ancient Oaks Park after former County Administrator Weldon B. Lewis in memory of his outstanding service as Administrator and for having held that position for 21 years ~ longer than any other Administrator in the State of Florida. The future Weldon B. Lewis Park is located on Oleander Avenue in White City and construction on the 48 acre park is set to begin in January 2004 and end in August 2004. The park will consist of 43.17 acres nature preserve with a hiking trail through some of the most mature oak hammocks in the County and 4.88 acres active recreation area with a playground, picnic pavilion and athletic fields.

Art in Public Places Annual Plan Approved

The Board of County Commissioners approved the annual plan for the Art in Public Places program for 2004. This year's plan includes projects at the County's Walton Road Annex Building in Port St. Lucie, the Avenue D and Fifteenth Street Roundabout in Fort Pierce, the 25th Street corridor and the South Beach Bridge in Fort Pierce. The Art in Public Places program will have approximately \$211,000 available to use towards the projects planned. For more information about the program, contact Jon Ward, Cultural Affairs Executive Director, at (772) 462-2548.

Holiday Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

Guided Hike ~ December 27 at 10:00 a.m. ~ *Join an Oxbow naturalist for an interpretive hike along Oxbow's trails.*

Holiday Crafts ~ December 20 & 21 at 2:00-4:00 p.m.

River Tour ~ December 20 at 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ *Explore the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by canoe or kayak. An Oxbow naturalist will be your guide on this relaxing tour. Space is limited. Please call for reservations. \$10 fee per person. Call (772) 785-5842 for more information.*

John Bruhn, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3 • Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Cliff Barnes, District 5

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